



**HARLESDEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT NW10

Email: admin@harlesden.brent.sch.uk

February 9, 2024

Be The Best That You Can Be!

The Harlesden Times

Harlesden Primary School's half-termly newsletter

In this half-termly newsletter, find out about some of the amazing learning and work that has taken place this half-term...

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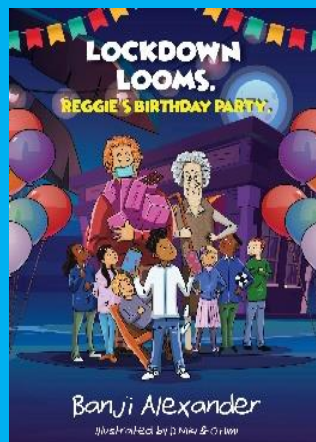
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Dear Parent/Carers,

It is great to have the children back in school after the Christmas holiday. What an exciting start to the first half of the Spring Term 2024. In the last weeks, the children have been involved in a wide range of enrichment activities, which goes beyond the standard school curriculum, providing them with opportunities to explore new and exciting learning experiences such as reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is encouraged in a range of ways across the school and we were fortunate to have a visit from Banji Alexander, an exciting new author who is a former teacher. Banji Alexander is the author of the book 'Lockdown Looms: Reggie's Birthday Party'.



Lockdown Looms is an insightful story, which so clearly captures the pandemic experiences of so many children. It is an entertaining tale that can help children to think about what really matters and who really matters in their young lives. His visit was insightful and motivational. The children were able to ask questions and get to know where ideas came from and how characters are brought alive. Banji signed multiple copies of his book that were purchased by parents/carers and staff.



To support your children in their development of reading, we recommend that you spend at least 10 minutes per day reading with your children. This can be a combination of you listening to them read their schoolbooks, them listening to you read a storybook or even taking it in turns. The sharing of reading is a valuable experience for you and your children as it gives you the opportunity to discuss new vocabulary as well as characters, themes and even facts that a range of books can offer.

Staffing update

As I am sure many of you are aware, Miss McArthur our Deputy Head teacher began her maternity leave this week. We wish her all the best and are very excited for her. In her absence Mrs Russell will continue in her role as SENCO but will also be our acting deputy Head teacher and Sarah Cutler (our year 6 teacher and English lead) will be overseeing our school curriculum as part of our leadership team. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best in their new roles at Harlesden.

In Early years, this half term we focused on our energy footprint by learning all about recycling. We explored how we can help our planet Earth by reducing, reusing and recycling different items. To understand such a big concept we read the story “The Little Turtle and the Sea”, which has helped us gain consciousness about how things we put in the bin can end in the oceans if we are not careful.

De Souza's class had conversations about how to be careful with our litter, and they have been exploring how the fishes can be caught up in nets and plastic bags if these reach the oceans.

In Kerr class we learnt what reduce, reuse and recycle mean, and thought of ideas to help our planet and specially the animals in the sea. As a class, we committed to recycling more by creating two bins in class, one for recycling paper and the other for general waste. To reduce energy, children talked about coming to school walking or with their bikes/scooters and taking showers instead of baths.

In Donaldson class, we learnt that recycling is turning rubbish into something new. As a class, we thought of ways to recycle and how to protect our planet earth. We had so many lovely ideas. We decided to make kites and a bug hotel by using plastic bags and plastic bottles. We also created a poster to encourage adults and children to recycle more.



Early years love Planet Earth!





MISSING COATS, GLOVES, HATS



Firstly, we would like to thank you all for doing your best to bring your children into school with warm clothing, as the weather has been cold.

However, unfortunately we have noticed that some children have been losing these warm clothing during the school day.

Please parents/carers, can we ensure that all children look for their coats, gloves or hats as soon as it is missing.

This will help your children remember where they left it last.

It is essential that you share with your child/ren how important it is to keep their items safe.

Any items not picked up will be with our lost property area. However, we cannot always guarantee that your child's item will be here as it could have been left in the playground, lunch hall or class room.





LET US CELEBRATE WITH YOU IN A HEALTHY FUN WAY

We have noticed that some parents/carers are unaware of our birthday celebration requirements, so for this reason we have some key points that we would like to share with you all.

If your child is celebrating their birthday, please see our school's [Birthday celebration guidelines](#) below:

1. Your child/ren are welcome to wear their own clothes on the day of their birthday, or the nearest day if during a weekend or holiday.
2. Goody/gifts bags can be brought into school for your child's class as long as they do not have the following content:
 - cake
 - sweets
 - crisps
 - fizzy drinks

ONLY Healthy Snacks such as Fruits, Crackers and Raisins are acceptable.

3. Any creative items such as mini notebooks, crayons, unblown balloons, pens, mini party trumpets or mini toys are welcome for children to take home.
4. Unfortunately, no celebrant cakes are allowed in school.
5. A happy birthday song will be sung to your child in class.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please feel free to ask at the school's main office.

To the children that are due to celebrate their birthdays soon we would like to wish you all a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY.



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have noticed that some of you have been having a few issues with getting through to us by phone especially in the mornings.

This could be because it is one of our busy periods in the school day as children come into school, as well as other parents trying to ring or speak to us at the same time.

In case the above happens to you, please take the following steps:

1. Call the school on the following number: **0208 965 7445**; If you cannot get through straight away please leave a voice message and we will be able to pick up your messages throughout the morning/day.
2. If calling is not working well for you, we encourage you to write to the following email address to let us know if your child is sick (daily unless signed off by a doctor), has an appointment, or is not coming into school for another reason.

Email address: attendance@harlesden.brent.sch.uk

IMPORTANT: It is vital that you contact the school main office to let us know if your child is not attending on the day.

If the above action is not taken, your child will be marked as **'Unauthorised absence'**, which will affect their attendance report and can be escalated to our **Educational Welfare Officer**.

Thank you,

The school Main office team



At Harlesden Primary School we always believe that every child matters and giving each child daily education according to the school terms dates and beyond is very important.

Our school's main attendance percentage is as follows:

96%

The above percentage should be reached by all children of Harlesden Primary School, not missing the fact that if your child/ren has an outstanding percentage such as above 96%, this will be acknowledged in our award ceremonies and newsletters.

Let us try our best to work together in keeping our children in school to receive the best education as possible by bringing them into school and on time.

If your child/ren is off for 3 days without any school notification being made this will be referred to our Educational Welfare Officer.

If your child/ren is off for 3 days or more, we do require you to call us every day and on the third day, we need some proof of why your child/ren has been off school such as a doctor's appointment slip/ note, online consultation form etc.

Please note, if your child is running late, do give us a call, leave a voicemail where necessary as well as feel free to send us an email to the following email address:

attendance@harlesden.brent.sch.uk and admin@harlesden.brent.sch.uk



HARLESDEN
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM
shaping . planning . living

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

———— AT OUR NEXT MEETING ————

Tavistock Hall

———— HIGH STREET/TAVISTOCK ROAD ————

FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY @ 6PM

THIS WILL BE OUR **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Election of trustees - Annual Report - Project updates
More updates from other Harlesden and local groups

JOIN US NOW



HARLESDENNEIGHBOURHOODFORUM.COM



We would like to remind you that we have our **Half Term (for 1 week)** break coming up.

The last day of school will be **Friday 9th February 2024**, please collect your children at the normal time of **3:30 pm**

All children are to return to school in full school uniform on **Monday 19th February 2024**.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday. Remain safe and enjoy.

Yours sincerely,

The Main Office Team

Harlesden Primary School



Be The Best That You Can Be!

HPS Early Years Foundation Stage is accepting new applications!

If you are looking for high quality, nurturing provision for your child, please apply at the office today for a nursery place. Reception places can be applied for through Brent Council on <https://www.brent.gov.uk>

We are excited for your child to join us!

- Nursery (morning sessions 5 days a week, 8.45am-12.00pm) 30 HOURS AVAILABLE IF ELIGIBLE
- Reception (full time, 8.45am-3.15pm)



To check eligibility for 30 hours per week free childcare, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>.

Please speak to the office team if you have any questions!



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SARAH WAWN (HEADTEACHER)



TERM DATES FOR 2023 – 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

AUTUMN TERM STARTS	Monday 4 th September 2023 (INSET 1) Tuesday 5 th September 2023 (INSET 2)
PUPILS RETURN	Wednesday 6 th September 2023
HALF TERM	Monday 23 rd October 2023 – Friday 27 th October 2023
PUPILS RETURN	Monday 30 th October 2023
TERM ENDS	Thursday 21 st December 2023
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	Friday 22 nd December 2023 – Friday 5 th January 2024
BANK HOLIDAYS	Monday 1 st January 2024

SPRING TERM 2024

SPRING TERM STARTS	Monday 8 th January 2024 (INSET 3)
PUPILS RETURN	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 12 th February 2024 – Friday 16 th February 2024
PUPILS RETURN	Monday 19 th February 2024
TERM ENDS	Thursday 28 th March 2024
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Friday 29 th March 2024 – Friday 12 th April 2024
BANK HOLIDAYS	Friday 29 th March 2024 and Monday 01 st April 2024

SUMMER TERM 2024

SUMMER TERM STARTS	
PUPILS RETURN	Monday 15 th April 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 27 th May 2024 – Friday 31 st May 2024
PUPILS RETURN	Monday 3 rd June 2024
TERM ENDS	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024 (INSET 4) Wednesday 24 th July 2024 (INSET 5)
BANK HOLIDAYS	Monday 6 th May 2024 and Monday 27 th May 2024

INSET DAYS 2023/24

Monday 4th September 2023 | Tuesday 5th September 2023 | Monday 8th January 2024 |
| Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th July 2024

